

PROJECT SUMMARY

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

080171

County: Fresno

Applicant: Sierra Foothill Conservancy

Project Title: Atkinson-Piasecki Ranch Conservation Easement

PROJECT GOAL

The Atkinson-Piasecki Ranch Conservation Easement will conserve the historic and viable working landscape, diverse flora, and water resources of this 680 acre property; thereby increasing connected land protection on Black Mountain for the benefit of natural resource conservation and the enjoyment of generations to come.

PROJECT SCOPE

Sierra Foothill Conservancy has an opportunity to create one of the largest most biologically diverse conservation areas in the central Sierra foothills and we would like Sierra Nevada Conservancy to partner with us. We are currently in the midst of a campaign to expand land protection on Black Mountain from our current 1337 acres to 4,346, including the acquisition of 458 acres of fee title lands and 2,611 acres in conservation easements. The successful completion of the Black Mountain Expansion Project would increase land protection on the Mountain by 3,009 acres of land to the Black Mountain conservation area. The proposed Atkinson-Piasecki Ranch Conservation Easement would incorporate 680 acres of these targeted properties, creating a continuum of land protection on the south slope of Black Mountain. Conservation of the property will protect 2.5 miles of stream habitat and water resources in the Dry Creek watershed, a tributary of the San Joaquin River. SFC has created benchmarks for the Black Mtn. Expansion Project and we would like to complete the Atkinson-Piasecki easement by the summer of 2009. Monetary funds totaling \$30,000 have been set aside for the completion of the Atkinson-Piasecki Conservation Easement.

Since protecting the Atkinson-Piasecki Ranch is part of the larger expansion project on Black Mtn, we consider that any funding to support the expansion effort demonstrates support for the Atkinson-Piasecki property. To date, SFC has received \$45,000 to support the larger expansion project through membership contributions and corporate partnerships with PG&E and REI. In addition, SFC has received over \$70,000 worth of land donations bringing us closer to our conservation expansion goals.

SFC has partnered with the Fresno RCD and California Department of Fish and Game to identify important ranch lands to be protected in our area including the Atkinson-Piasecki Property. California Native Plant Society has conducted vegetation surveys on Black Mountain and would like to include the Atkinson-Piasecki property in their study. The San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum would like to use the project to demonstrate how important wildlife and water resources can be protected on working landscapes.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Fresno Resource Conservation District (RCD), California Native Plant Society (CNPS), San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum (SJVWLF), and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Black Mountain Atkinson-Piasecki Celebration	April 2009
Complete Baseline Report, Management Plan, Monitoring Protocol	April 2009
Close Escrow and Record Conservation Easement	End of April 2009
Send Out Press Release	End May 2009
Erect Sign on Property Recognizing Project	End May 2009
Submit 6 month report progress report SNC	October 2009
SFC Presentation to SJVWLF: Atkinson Piasecki Model	Fall 2009
Annual Monitoring Visit	April 2010
Submit 6 month progress report to SNC	April 2010
Erect Sign on Black Mtn. Preserve	May 2010
Submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2010
Annual Monitoring Visit and Report	April 2011
Submit 6 month progress report	April 2011
Submit 6 month progress report to SNC	October 2011
California Fish and Game conduct bio survey on property	Spring 2012
Submit Final Report to SNC	Spring 2012

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fair Market Value Purchase of Conservation Easement	\$550,000
Escrow Fees, Title Insurance, Closing Costs	\$5,000
Direct Administrative Costs, Consultant and Professional Fees	\$32,300
Performance Measure Fulfillment and Reporting	\$1,000
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$588,300